IN THE SPECIFICATION

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please **REPLACE** the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 9, with the following paragraph:

--A halftone dot image binarizing unit 14 binarizes an input image corresponding to the halftone dot image are map Ma (that is, an input image of the halftone dot image area in the input document), while suppressing an input read error that my occur when the input binary image is read by the input unit 11. Then, ~~the unit 14~~the halftone dot image binarizing unit 14 outputs a binarized halftone dot image thus generated.--